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Inside Wallops

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NASA Administrator Sean O'Keefe Visits Goddard Space Flight Center

New NASA Administrator Sean O'Keefe visited Goddard Space Flight Center, Greenbelt, on January 22. O'Keefe addressed Goddard employees at an All Hand's Meeting, expressing his humility at taking such a position in an agency which he said continues to reflect the spirit of America, and "the capacity to explore."

Joined by members of Maryland's Congressional delegation, including Senators Paul Sarbanes and Barbara Mikulski, and Congressman Wayne Gilchrest, the Administrator toured the Detector Development Laboratory, the Scientific Visualization Studio and portions of the 7/10/29 facility complex.



NASA Photo
NASA Administrator O'Keefe, (left), with Maryland Congressional members and Center Director Al Diaz.

O'Keefe touched on the three points for creating a great organization: professionalism, resources to perform duties, and recognition of successes and failures.

O'Keefe's visit also included a keynote address to the Center's resources community, and lunch with a group of Presidential Management Interns (the Administrator was a member of the first class of PMIs).

O'Keefe also participated in a press conference with the Congressional members.

His visit ended with a reception at the Visitors Center attended by a number of community, academic and business leaders.

Employees interested in seeing a tape of the All Hand's Meeting can call Betty Flowers, x1584.

Inside Wallops.....

Sounding Rockets

The winter 2002 campaign at Poker Flat Research Range (PFRR), Alaska continues. The first science window ended, January 23, with four rockets still on the pad. Another attempt to launch the Black Brant V and three Taurus-Orions will be made during the next science window, February 8 to about February 20. A second project from PFRR involves the launch of a Black Brant XII and a single-stage Orion. The window for this mission is February 2 to approximately February 24.

Natural Hazards Web Site

NASA has set up a new web site to publish satellite images in near real time of natural hazards that are occurring around the world. A new addition to NASA's Earth Observatory, the Natural Hazards section contains images and information about major environmental events that are potentially hazardous to human populations.

Initially, the Earth Observatory team will track five categories of natural hazards: wildfires, severe storms, floods, volcanic eruptions, and major air pollution events (dust storms, smog, and smoke)—such as this image taken Dec. 22, 2001, (below) of the red tide along Florida's West Coast.



The images—acquired by NASA Earth Science Enterprise and Earth Observing System (EOS) satellite missions—are available to the public as well as news media.

Scientists around the world use NASA satellite imagery to better understand the causes and effects of natural hazards. The goal in sharing these images is to help people visualize where and when natural hazards occur.

In Memory

Government flags were flown at half-staff on Sunday, January 27, in memory of the three-member crew who perished in the Apollo 1 fire. They will remain at half-staff on Monday, January 28, in memory of the seven astronauts who perished in the STS-51L Challenger accident.

Apollo 204 (Apollo 1)

On January 27, 1967, tragedy struck the Apollo program when a flash fire occurred in command module 012 during a launch pad test of the Apollo-Saturn space vehicle being prepared for the first piloted flight, the AS-204 mission. Three astronauts, Lt. Col. Virgil I. Grissom, a veteran of Mercury and Gemini missions; Lt. Col. Edward H. White, the astronaut who had performed the first United States extravehicular activity during the Gemini program; and Roger B. Chaffee, an astronaut preparing for this first space flight, died in this tragic accident.



Challenger STS-51L

On January 28, 1986, Space Shuttle Challenger was launched with a crew of seven astronauts, Dick Scobee, Michael Smith, Judith Resnik, Ellison S. Onizuka, Ronald McNair, Christa McAuliffe and Gregory Jarvis. Tragically, 73 seconds after lift-off, the spacecraft exploded, killing its entire crew.

Women of Wallops Day Observed



Photo by T. Ewell

Women of Wallops Day was celebrated on January 17. Lee Milteer, left, was the luncheon speaker and conducted two workshops attended by 65 NASA, NOAA and Navy personnel.

Sympathy is extended to the family and friends of Lloyd Clayton Hickman, Sr. who died January 22 in Peninsula Regional Medical Center. Hickman retired from NASA Wallops Flight Facility and is survived by his wife, Georgia; a son and two grandchildren.

Groundhog Day



Groundhog Day is on Saturday, February 2.

It is said that if the groundhog, Punxsutawney Phil, (left), sees his shadow, there will be six more weeks of bad weather, and if he doesn't, that spring will be here soon. Let's hope for a cloudy day

Sympathy is extended to the family and friends of Gilbert Whidden who died January 21 in Peninsula Regional Medical Center. Whidden retired from NASA Wallops Flight Facility and is survived by his wife, Ethel.

Summer Jobs for High School Students

Applications and information are available for two student summer programs, NASA SHARP and the National Space Club Scholars Program.

The National Space Club Scholars Program runs for six weeks and NASA SHARP runs for eight weeks. The students work at NASA Wallops Flight Facility — eight hours a day, five days a week — and are paid. They must be within the local commuting distance.

Applications may be picked up in the Public Affairs Office, Building F-6. For information call Betty Flowers, x1584 or Keith Koehler, x1579. The deadline for submitting the applications is in late February.

Safety Corner How to Lift and Carry Safely

Lifting and carrying are power jobs - when you lift and carry the wrong way, you can damage your back. Back injuries are the most common type of injury in the workplace.

Back injuries may be difficult to treat and may have lengthy and expensive rehabilitation times.

Whether you are lifting at home or at work, make an effort to take care of your back. The National Safety Council recommends a number of tips to prevent unintentional injuries and will also help to keep your back strong and healthy.

You will probably work better if you start each day with exercises that include slow stretches and leg and back warm-ups. Below are some power lifting tips:

- Protect your hands and feet by wearing safety gear.
- Size up the load - tip it on its side to see if you can carry it comfortably. Get help if the load is too big or bulky for one person. Check for nails, splinters, rough strapping and sharp edges.
- Lift it right - make sure your footing is solid. Keep your back straight, with no curving or slouching. Center your body over your feet, get a good grip on the object and pull it close to you. Pull your feet, get a good grip on the object and pull it close to you. Pull your stomach in firmly. Lift with your legs, not your back; if you need to turn, move your feet and don't twist your back.

Other lifting tips include the following:

- Oversized loads - do not try to carry a big load alone; ask for help. Work as a team by lifting, walking and lowering the load together. Let one person call the shots and direct the lift. Use proper mechanical devices for heavy loads.
- High Loads - use a step stool or a sturdy ladder to reach loads that are above your shoulders. Get as close to the load as you can slide the load toward you. Lifting should be done with your arms and legs and not your back.
- Always use your stomach as a low back support by pulling it in during lifting.

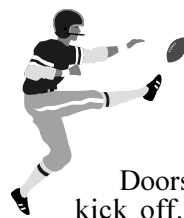
VSFA Offers Weekend Camp

The Virginia Space Flight Academy, (VSFA), is offering a weekend residential camp February 16 and 17 for students in grades 6 - 8. The camp will feature robotics. Campers arrive at 9 a.m. on Saturday and leave at 4 p.m. on Sunday. The cost, \$150, includes housing, meals and all instructional materials.

For information and registration contact Bob Marshall, (757) 824-3800.

Upcoming WEMA Events

Attendance at WEMA events will be limited to badged employees and their spouses or "significant other".



Superbowl Party February 3 Building F-3

Doors open one hour before kick off. There is no entrance charge but everyone is encouraged to bring a covered dish.

Mardi Gras February 15 4:30 p.m. - until Building F-3

Cajun food and party favors



Disc Jockey - Herm Rawlings

No admission charge but attendance will be limited to 100. Free tickets may be obtained at the Wallops Exchange, Building E-2.

Daytona 500 Party February 17 Building F-3



Doors open one hour before start of the race. No admission charge.

Engineers Week February 18 - 22

Founded in 1951 by the National Society of Professional Engineers, National Engineers Week is celebrated annually by thousands of engineers, engineering students, teachers and leaders in government and business.



During Engineers Week, Wallops engineers, technicians and scientists will be visiting local schools. If you are interested in participating

contact Wallops Teacher-on-Loan, Ed Parrott in the Public Affairs Office on extension 1681.

The Engineers Week web site is:
<http://education.gsfc.nasa.gov/eweek/engineers/>

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